



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE MILO SMITH

Dear Neighbor,

In January, I came to the Statehouse with the determination of giving you additional protection on your property taxes, and I left in March with this goal achieved.

Hoosiers will be given the opportunity to vote in November whether or not the property tax caps will be written into the state's constitution.

I was also pleased to have worked on legislation that will now require an assessor to prove why your assessed value has increased.

It is my belief that all Hoosier taxpayers deserve to have the reassurance that their property taxes will never again fluctuate out of control.

This session I supported legislation that focuses on unemployed Hoosiers getting back to work. I helped to pass legislation giving businesses a tax delay on their unemployment insurance premiums as well as creating tax credits for hiring new employees and for starting a new small business.

I look forward to a bright future for our state and continuing to serve you with pride and dedication.

Sincerely,
Milo Smith
Milo Smith



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LET'S STAY CONNECTED.

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MILO SMITH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE · HOUSE DISTRICT 59



CONTROLLING SPENDING

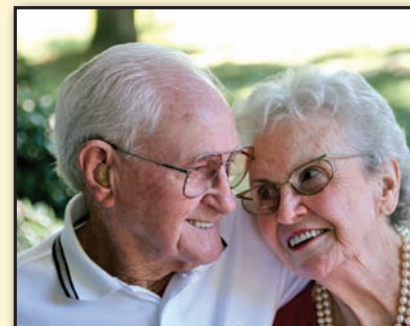


Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortfalls. We first must live within our means. Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was thrilled that there were no new taxes passed this session.

CAPPING GOVERNMENT'S GRASP ON YOUR TAXES



One of my top priorities this session was protecting Hoosier taxpayers. I first voted to pass property tax caps in 2008 and am thrilled that taxpayers will have the opportunity to vote in November on approving this change to the Indiana Constitution. Property tax caps will ensure the permanency of the property tax reforms begun in 2008. I also voted to delay the Unemployment Insurance tax increase which would have increased taxes on more than 72,000 small business owners.



HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS

I supported giving senior citizens, and all Hoosiers, the ability to vote to constitutionally cap their property tax bills to no more than 1% of their home's assessed value. Additionally, it is now clear that senior citizens are able to receive both the senior citizen's property tax deduction and the supplemental standard deduction. I also voted to have courts work through established programs when appointing advocates for incapacitated persons over the age of 55.



SUPPORTING HOOSIER VETERANS

I voted to protect veterans from debt collectors who try to collect from service members' disability benefits. I also supported legislation to ensure that all Indiana National Guard members returning from active duty service receive face-to-face care from a professional mental health provider if they need it to help with the stress of combat.



HELPING HOOSIER FARMERS

I voted to save Hoosier farmers nearly \$20 million on their property tax bills in 2011 by improving the system for assessing farm land. Farm land assessments will now be based on an adjusted six-year average that eliminates the highest value over the six-year period.



SUPPORTING SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

I voted to help schools redirect up to \$60 million to help fill gaps that came as a result of the state funding reductions. I believe this additional money will help with teacher job retention during these difficult economic times.



My Web site is www.in.gov/h59